

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 NEA-14 AGR-20 COME-00 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

OIC-04 DRC-01 /201 W

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R 230937Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3539

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON:AORG:ECAFE

SUBJ: RED:ECAFE:ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES--
INFORMAL ADVANCE MEETING

REF: (A) BANGKOK 7370 (B) BANGKOK 8243 (C) BANGKOK 8244

1. SUMMARY: INDONESIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE INVITED ALL OTHER ECAFE PRS IN BANGKOK TO INFORMAL PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT ECAFE SECRETARIAT REGARDING FIRST SESSION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (ACPR) WHICH MEETS MAY 29. CONSENSUS DEVELOPED AMONG 16 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED TO INSERT AS NEW AGENDA ITEM 3 "PROGRAM OF WORK AND PROCEDURES FOR FOLLOWING PERIOD" UNDER WHICH ACPR PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 5) WOULD BE DISCUSSED THEN PRS WOULD PRESENT PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEMS 3, 4, 6, 7 AND 8 IF TIME PERMITS. PROVISIONAL AGENDA ALREADY ISSUED (REFTEL A) WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS LONG TERM AGENDA COVERING TOTALITY OF ACPR MEETINGS FOR REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. COMMENT: SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS CLEARLY NOT EXPECTED

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AT MAY 29 MEETING BUT PRELIMINARY WASHINGTON VIEWS ON PRO-

VISIONAL AGENDA ITEMS WOULD STILL BE USEFUL. END
SUMMARY.

2. INDONESIA PR JASIN INVITED ALL PRS LOCATED IN BANGKOK TO INFORMAL PRELIMINARY MEETING MAY 22 TO DISCUSS FIRST SESSION ACPR. PRS FROM FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ATTENDED: AUSTRALIA, BURMA, FRANCE, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA, USSR, UK AND US.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP - INDONESIA CHAIRED INFORMAL MEETING WHICH DEVOTED FIRST PART OF ELECTION OF ACPR CHARIMAN AT FIRST SESSION. MANY ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED MALAYSIAN REP MUSTAPHA, WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY CHAIRED FIRST AND SECOND SESSIONS OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MEETING ON ECAFE RATIONALIZATION IN SEPTEMBER AND ECEMBER 1973. LATER AUSTRALIA WAS PICKED AS FIRST CHAIRMAN UNDER ALPHABETICAL SYSTEM BUT, WHEN HE ALSO DECLINED NOMINATION, INDONESIA WAS FINALLY SELECTED AS FIRST CHAIRMAN WITH CHAIR TO BE ROTATED SUBSEQUENTLY AT EACH SESSION ALPHABETICALLY AFTER INDONESIA. CONSENSUS AGREED THAT TWO VICE CHAIRMEN WOULD ALSO BE SELECTED WITH SUBSEQUENT CHAIRMAN ALWAYS CHOSEN AS VICE CHAIRMAN IN PREVIOUS SESSION TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY.

4. ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO NZ SUGGESTION THAT PROVISIONAL AGENDA INCLUDE NEW ITEM 3 ENTITLED "PROGRAM OF WORK AND PROCEDURES FOR FOLLOWING PERIOD" (THIS ITEM NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 6 "FORMAT OF PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, ETC."). ALL AGREED WITH JAPANESE PROPOSAL THAT PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 5 "CALENDAR OF MEETINGS" SHOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT FIRST SESSION. UK ARGUED THAT PROVISIONAL AGENDA SHOULD COVER TOTALITY OF ACPR MEETINGS THIS YEAR AND NOT JUST FIRST SESSION.

5. MALAYSIA STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT PRS EXCHANGE PRELIMINARY VIEWS AT FIRST SESSION ON AGENDA ITEMS 3 AND 4 (TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES) BUT USSR CAUTIONED PRS TO GO SLOW AND JUST DISCUSS PROCEDURAL MATTERS ONLY AT FIRST SESSION AND THEN HOLD SECOND SESSION FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN JULY. USSR LATER MODIFIED THIS STAND BY RECOMMENDING "INFORMAL MEETINGS" IN JUNE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ITEMS 3 AND 4. USSR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDICATED CONCERN UNDER ITEM 3 THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION; HE RECOMMENDED OLD TERMS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

6. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND REPORTS - SRI LANKA WONDERED ABOUT COST CONSTRAINTS AGAINST HOLDING NUMEROUS ACPR MEETINGS AND GROUP AGREED WITH MALAYSIA THAT SECRETARIAT GUIDANCE SHOULD BE

SOUGHT BEFORE FINAL DECISION MADE ON THEIR FREQUENCY. ALL AGREED TO REMEMBER THAT PRS HAVE STRONGLY AND CONSISTENTLY OBJECTED TO FREQUENCY OF ECAFE MEETINGS. AUSTRALIA ARGUED FOR HAVING SECRETARIAT PREPARE DRAFT OF ALL ACPR MEETINGS AND ALL AGREED WITH UK COMMENT THAT ONLY SHORT, SIMPLE REPORT ON DECISIONS MADE AND WORK TO BE DONE SHOULD BE PREPARED.

7. FERTILIZER FUND - WHEN NEW ZEALAND PROPOSED DISPOSING OF AGENDA ITEM 7 ON FERTILIZER FUND AT FIRST SESSION, JAPAN, INDICATED "WISEMEN" WERE MEETING ON THIS TOPIC ONLY ON MAY 27 AND 28 AND HE DOUBTED REPORT WOULD BE READY BY 29. PAKISTAN EVEN INDICATED THESE "WISEMEN" PLAN TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING IN JULY. CONSENSUS WAS THAT NO PROGRESS REPORT OR DISCUSSION IN DEPTH COULD BE EXPECTED ON FERTILIZER FUND AT FIRST SESSION ACPR.

8. FINAL CONSENSUS - MALAYSIA SUMMARIZED AGENDA EXPECTED AT FIRST SESSION AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- (2) ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- (3) PROGRAM OF WORK AND PROCEDURES FOR FOLLOWING PERIOD
- (4) CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

IF ANY PR WANTS TO COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEMS 3, 4, 6, 7 AND 8 AT FIRST SESSION HE IS WELCOMED TO DO SO AND OTHERS CAN RELAY HIS VIEWS TO THEIR HOME GOVERNMENTS TO PREPARE FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS IN JUNE OR JULY. ALL AGREED TO TRY TO HOLD FUTURE ACPR SESSIONS IN MORNING ONLY BUT FIRST SESSION EXPECTED LAST ALL DAY.

9. COMMENT: CLEARLY WE CANNOT EXPECT MUCH MORE THAN AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES AT FIRST ACPR SESSION. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS MAY PERHAPS BE AGREED UPON ALSO. NEVERTHELESS, WASHINGTON'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEMS 3,4,6,7 AND 8 (REFTEL A) WOULD STILL BE USEFUL FOR THIS FIRST SESSION. THERE WAS A STRONG SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DEDICATION EXPRESSED BY THE ASSEMBLED PRS AT THIS INFORMAL ADVANCE MEETING; THE ACPR SHOULD BECOME A USEFUL MONITORING VEHICLE OF ECAFE. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO08415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740129-0177
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740524/aaaaavdt.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BANGKOK 7370 (B) BANGKOK 8243 (C,) BANGKOK 8244
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RED:ECAFE:ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES-- INFORMAL ADVANCE MEETING
TAGS: OCON, AORG, ECAFE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005